

REMARKS

The examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search.

By this amendment, Claims 1-5, 7-11, 14-21, 23-33, 35-37, 39-40, and 42-43 have been amended. Amendments to the claims are made to without acquiescence to the position of the Office Action or prejudice to pursue the claims, as previously presented, in a continuation application, as the amendments have been made to exclusively improve readability and clarity of the claims and not for the purpose of overcoming the cited art. Claims 6, 12, 13, and 38 have been cancelled. Claims 45-49 have been added. The subject matter previously recited in Claims 6 and 12 has been recited in new Claims 47 and 48, respectively, to conform with MPEP § 608.01(n). Hence, Claims 1-5, 7-11, and 14-37, and 39-49 are pending in the application.

FILED IDS HAS NOT BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED

An information disclosure statement (IDS) was filed February 17, 2005 (the "February IDS"); however the Applicant has not yet received an initialed form PTO-1449 acknowledging receipt and consideration of the references identified in the February IDS. Consequently, the Applicant respectfully requests an initialed form PTO-1449 acknowledging receipt and consideration of the references identified in the February IDS.

The French Patent No. 2,801,705, which was cited in the IDS considered on March 3, 2005, was crossed out in the received form PTO-1449. However, the Applicant submitted a copy of the International Search Report, written in English, which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. Thus, under MPEP § 609, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance for the French Patent No. 2,801,705 has been satisfied, and the French

Patent No. 2,801,705 should be considered. Consequently, the Applicant respectfully requests an initialed form PTO-1449 consideration of the French Patent No. 2,801,705.

SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS

Claims 1-5, 14-16, 18, 21, 24-28, 30, 33, and 36-37 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,098,098 issued to Sandahl et al. (“*Sandahl*”).

Claims 7-8, 10-11, 13, 23, 35, and 38 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Sandahl*.

Claims 6, 9, 12, 17, 22, 29, 34, 39, and 40-44 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Sandahl* in view of U.S. Patent Application 2002/0178380 by to Wolf et al. (“*Wolf*”).

Claims 19-20 and 31-32 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Sandahl* in view of U.S. Patent 6,675,370 issued to Sundaresan et al. (“*Sundaresan*”).

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

THE PENDING CLAIMS ARE PATENTABLE OVER THE CITED ART

Each of the pending claims recites one or more features that is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Sandahl*. Each of the pending claims shall be discussed individually below.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites the following features:

A system for actively managing configurable components, comprising:
a plurality of components, each component storing a configuration comprising a set of configuration parameters;
a repository that stores information about a configuration policy;
a server configured to (a) register each of the plurality of components, (b) perform dynamic probing operations to identify configuration changes made to the configuration of each of the plurality of components, and (c) validate identified configuration changes against the configuration policy to determine whether the configuration changes conform to the configuration policy (emphasis added).

The above-underlined features of Claim 1 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Sandahl*.

The approach of *Sandahl* is directed towards a system for managing the configuration of multiple computer devices over a network. A file server in the system is connectable to each of the computer devices via the network. Each of the computer devices periodically connects to the file server to allow a determination to be made as to whether the configuration of the computer device has changed. When the configuration of a particular computer device has changed, a system operator reviews the changes made to the configuration of the particular device. If the system operation accepts the changes, then information at the file server is updated to reflect the new changes made to the configuration of the particular device. On the other hand, if the system operation rejects the changes, the particular device will determine that the changes have been rejected when the particular device subsequently communicates with the file server. As a result of determining that the changes to the configuration of the particular device have been rejected, the particular device will request a prior configuration of the particular device from the file server. The particular device will revert to the prior configuration once the particular device

receives the prior configuration from the file server. (See abstract; Col. 8, line 45 – Col. 9, line 3).

Importantly, in the approach of *Sandahl*, a system operator reviews any changes made to the configuration of a computer device to determine whether the change to the configuration is approved or rejected. As a result, numerous elements of Claim 1 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Sandahl*.

For example, the element of “a repository that stores information about a configuration policy” is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Sandahl*. No portion of *Sandahl* discloses a repository that stores information about a configuration policy; instead, it is the responsibility of the system operator to review and approve the changes in the local configuration of each device (see Col. 2, lines 53-55).

Another important distinction between *Sandahl* and Claim 1 is shown by the feature of “a server configured to ... (c) validate identified configuration changes against the configuration policy to determine whether the configuration changes conform to the configuration policy.” As explained above, because the approach of *Sandahl* relies upon the system operator to review and approve the changes in the local configuration of each device, no server performs any step of validating identified configuration changes against the configuration policy to determine whether the configuration changes conform to the configuration policy.

The portion of *Sandahl* cited to show this subject matter (Col. 6, lines 23-30) merely describes detecting whether a change occurred to the configuration of a managed device; however, it is ultimately the responsibility of the system operator, and not a server, to perform any validation step in the approach of *Sandahl*.

Consequently, as one or more elements featured in Claim 1 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Sandahl*, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 7

Claim 7 recites the following features:

A method for actively managing configurable components, comprising:
maintaining a repository, accessible to a server, that stores information about a configuration policy;
registering, with the server, each of a plurality of components;
performing dynamic probing operations to identify configuration changes made to a configuration of each of the plurality of components; and
validating, at the server, identified configuration changes against the configuration policy to determine whether the identified configuration changes conform to the configuration policy (emphasis added).

The above-underlined features of Claim 7 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Sandahl*.

As explained above, the approach of *Sandahl* does not maintain, in a repository that is accessible to a server, information about a configuration policy. Consequently, *Sandahl* does not disclose, teach, or suggest the element of “maintaining a repository, accessible to a server, that stores information about a configuration policy” featured in Claim 7.

Also, the approach of *Sandahl* does not disclose, teach, or suggest the element of “validating identified configuration changes against the configuration policy to determine whether the identified configuration changes conform to the configuration policy” featured in Claim 7. At best, *Sandahl* teaches an approach wherein a system operator may review and approve changes to the configuration of managed devices. While the system operator may choose to consult a configuration policy in making approving a particular configuration change,

the approach of *Sandahl* does not teach validating, at a server, configuration changes based on a configuration policy stored in a repository.

Consequently, as one or more elements featured in Claim 7 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Sandahl*, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 7 is patentable over the cited art and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 14

Claim 14 recites the following features:

A system, comprising:
a plurality of components, wherein each component, of the plurality of components, comprises a client module for accessing configuration parameters of a configuration of the component;
a management server which maintains a repository for storing information about a configuration policy; and
a management console capable of accessing the repository, wherein the management console comprises:
at least one service interface for retrieving the configuration of a particular component, of the plurality of components, by communicating with the client module associated with the particular component;
a parser for extracting configuration parameters from each retrieved configuration; and
a validator for validating each extracted configuration parameter against the configuration policy (emphasis added).

The above-underlined features of Claim 14 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Sandahl*.

As explained above, the approach of *Sandahl* does not involve a management server that maintains a repository for storing information about a configuration policy. Consequently, *Sandahl* does not disclose, teach, or suggest the element of “a management server which maintains a repository for storing information about a configuration policy” featured in Claim 14.

Also, the system of *Sandahl* does not disclose, teach, or suggest the element of “a validator for validating each extracted configuration parameter against the configuration policy” featured in Claim 14. At best, *Sandahl* teaches an approach wherein a system operator may review and approve changes to the configuration of managed devices. While the system operator may choose to consult a configuration policy in making approving a particular configuration change, the system of *Sandahl* does not teach a validator for validating each extracted configuration parameter against the configuration policy.

Consequently, as one or more elements featured in Claim 14 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Sandahl*, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 14 is patentable over the cited art and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 26

Claim 26 recites the following features:

A method, comprising:
maintaining a repository for storing information about a configuration policy;
retrieving the configuration of each of a plurality of components by
communicating with a client module residing at each component of the
plurality of components;
extracting, from each configuration retrieved, a set of configuration parameters;
and
validating each extracted configuration parameter against the configuration policy
(emphasis added).

The above-underlined features of Claim 26 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Sandahl*.

As explained above, the approach of *Sandahl* does not involve maintaining a repository for storing information about a configuration policy. Consequently, *Sandahl* does not disclose, teach, or suggest the element of “maintaining a repository for storing information about a configuration policy” featured in Claim 26.

Also, the approach of *Sandahl* does not disclose, teach, or suggest the element of “validating each extracted configuration parameter against the configuration policy” featured in Claim 26. At best, *Sandahl* teaches an approach wherein a system operator may review and approve changes to the configuration of managed devices. While the system operator may choose to consult a configuration policy in making approving a particular configuration change, the approach of *Sandahl* does not teach validating configuration changes based on a configuration policy stored in a repository.

Consequently, as one or more elements featured in Claim 26 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Sandahl*, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 26 is patentable over the cited art and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-5, 8-11, 15-25, 27-37, and 39-49

Claims 2-5, 8-11, 15-25, 27-37, and 39-49 are dependent claims, each of which depends (directly or indirectly) on one of the claims discussed above. Each of Claims 2-5, 8-11, 15-25, 27-37, and 39-49 is therefore allowable for the reasons given above for the claim on which it depends. In addition, each of Claims 2-5, 8-11, 15-25, 27-37, and 39-49 introduces one or more additional limitations that independently render it patentable. However, due to the fundamental differences already identified, to expedite the positive resolution of this case, a separate discussion of those limitations is not included at this time. The Applicants reserve the right to further point out the differences between the cited art and the novel features recited in the dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

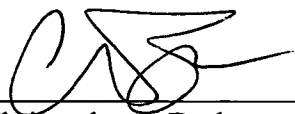
For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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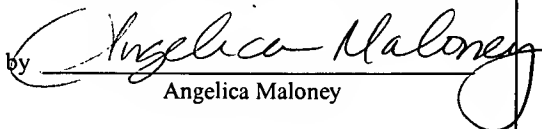
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on June 16, 2005

by


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